



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

**News Release**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

---

DARWIN L.D. CHING, DIRECTOR  
COLLEEN Y. LaCLAIR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
Phone: (808) 586-8844  
Fax: (808) 586-9099

---

**MR 2008 26**

For Immediate Release: September 8, 2008

**THE OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS TO HOLD CIVIL RIGHTS  
FORUM AND COMMUNITY FAIR TO CELEBRATE LANGUAGE  
ACCESS MONTH**

Distinguished Speakers will Debate the Academic, Legal, and Civil Rights  
Aspects of Language Access.

**Honolulu** – In celebration of Language Access Month, the Office of Language Access (OLA), the William S. Richardson School of Law, and the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution will be co-sponsoring the “Civil Rights and Language Access” Forum on September 15, 2008 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Art Auditorium on the University of Hawaii – Manoa campus.

The forum brings together a distinguished panel of speakers to debate the academic, legal, and civil rights aspects of language access issues. This event will be moderated by Mr. Bill Hoshijo, Executive Director of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission with panelists Senator Fred Hemmings, Minority Leader of the Hawaii State Senate, Professor Mari Matsuda, Professor of Law at the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law, Ms. Jennifer Rose, Gender Equity Specialist of the University of Hawaii Office of Gender Equity, and Ms. Pat McManaman, Chief Executive Officer of Na Loio – Immigrant Rights and Public Interest Legal Center.

Additionally, the OLA will also hold a Community Fair on September 26, 2008 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Hawaii State Capitol Rotunda. This community fair will enable the public to learn more about language access resources. The community fair will have community and non-profit booths, cultural entertainment, food, guest speakers, prizes and giveaways, and the distribution of Language Identification & Emergency Cards.

Language Identification & Emergency Cards are given to Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons to use in times of civil defense emergency situations. This community fair is also co-sponsored by the Inter-Agency Council on Immigrant Services, and the State of Hawaii Civil Defense Division.

Governor Linda Lingle and Lt. Governor James "Duke" Aiona have issued a proclamation naming September 2008 "Language Access Month." The Hawaii State Legislature has passed resolutions declaring September 2008 as "Language Access Month." The proclamation and resolutions are to promote public awareness of language access issues and the rights of Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons to equal access to government services and services provided by state funded non-government organizations.

**#####**

For more information, contact:  
Jeremy Low  
Research Analyst  
Office of Language Access  
Phone: (808) 586-8737  
Fax: (808) 586-8733  
Email: [jeremy.d.low@hawaii.gov](mailto:jeremy.d.low@hawaii.gov)

Serafin "Jun" Colmenares  
Executive Director  
Office of Language Access  
Phone: (808) 586-8731  
Fax: (808) 586-8733  
Email: [serafin.p.colmenares@hawaii.gov](mailto:serafin.p.colmenares@hawaii.gov)